

Last, but far from least, we have to mention Nighthawk Nation. I am sure that everyone associated with the football team will tell you that Northern Guilford's formidable fan base spurred them on to victory. No doubt that the students, parents, faculty, staff, and supporters of Northern Guilford football are beaming with pride following a third state championship.

The seniors on this team will move on to their next adventures. For the returning Nighthawks, I am sure they have already begun their dreams of four in a row. If that happens, I plan to be back here again next year offering my own congratulations. For now, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate and thank the football team at Northern Guilford High School for showing us how perfection can be achieved. The third time is a charm indeed.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS FOR THE NE COAST OF THE U.S.

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of China (ROC), also known as Taiwan. Immediately after Hurricane Sandy hit the Northeast coast on October 29th and 30th, many foreign governments and non-governmental organizations offered generous help to the United States. The Republic of China government (Taiwan) offered \$1.3 million to aid in relief and reconstruction efforts.

On November 16th Taiwan donated \$1 million to two charities, United Way International and Habitat for Humanity International, two of the leading relief agencies. The rest of the funds were distributed to the state governments of New York and New Jersey, which were among the hardest hit areas.

A ceremony marking the transfer of funds to the two charities was held in Washington, DC, on December 6, 2012. On behalf of the current 11th Congressional District, soon to be the 9th Congressional district of New York, I recognize the ROC for their generous contribution and show of good will towards the United States. As parts of the Northeast coast continue to rebuild, on behalf of my constituents, I am grateful to those who have offered their assistance. I thank the ROC and look forward to continuing a long lasting and fruitful friendship.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR HARRY MASON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the contributions of a remarkable public servant and dear friend, Mayor Harry Mason. In November, Mayor Mason retired after 20 years as chief executive of Pine Hill, Alabama.

In his best-selling 1998 book, *The Greatest Generation*, former NBC Television anchor Tom Brokaw told the story of what he believed was the greatest generation any society has ever produced. "... These men and women fought not for fame and recognition, but because it was the right thing to do. When they came back they rebuilt America into a superpower."

Harry Mason was a product of that historic generation; a native of Southwest Alabama, a hardworking local businessman, and citizen who stepped up to serve his country and his home town because it was the right thing to do.

As an assistant engineer in the Merchant Marine during World War II, Harry was aboard the S.S. Sea Porpoise when it landed 3,000 troops on the beaches of Normandy during the second wave of the famous D-Day invasion to liberate France. On July 5, 1944, the S.S. Sea Porpoise was damaged by a German mine. The ship's complement of 159 crew and passengers, including Harry, were uninjured and the ship survived.

When he returned stateside to civilian life, like so many others of our "Greatest Generation" Harry eagerly rejoined the workforce helping his father run the family business. He invested his life and his heart in Pine Hill, and according to a recent article in the *Thomasville Times*, Harry wouldn't have had it any other way. "Except for the war, I never even entertained a thought of going somewhere else," he told the paper.

It wasn't long before Harry turned his passion to public service, first as a member of the Wilcox County Board of Education during the tumultuous 1960s and 70s. In 1991, he left his family business of running the Economy Store and instead ran for mayor.

Looking back at 20 years of leading his town, he has much for which to be proud. An expansion of the Pine Hill's water and sewer system and city limits come to mind. Perhaps most notably during his last year in office, Pine Hill landed one of the largest industries to come to Southwest Alabama in years. Harry joined state and local officials in welcoming Golden Dragon Copper to the Pine Hill area in February. When completed, this new factory is expected to employ 300 workers with the potential to reach 500.

An active presence in the community, Mayor Harry Mason has also served as a member of the board of the Bank of Pine Hill. However, of all his many accomplishments, Harry points to his 20 years' service as chief of the Pine Hill Volunteer Fire Department as his greatest.

On behalf of the people of south Alabama, I wish Harry and his wonderful wife, Mittie, the very best for a well-deserved and duly-earned retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed rollcall votes 629 and 630. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

Rollcall 629—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass—"yes."

Rollcall 630—On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendment—"yes."

IN TRIBUTE TO HOWARD AND SUSAN GROFF

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to my good friends, entrepreneurs and patriots Howard and Susan Groff.

The Groffs have owned Northwest Excavating Co., Inc. since the 1960s. Howard's father, Bob Groff, founded the company in 1959 under the name "Northwest Compaction." The company started out modestly, with two backhoes, an Arrow hammer, a skid loader, and a Gradall.

During the first few years, Northwest focused primarily on renting equipment and operators to local grading and sewer contractors. The company prospered during the 1960s due to the ever-increasing construction throughout Southern California. While maintaining a conservative approach towards growth, the company slowly added equipment to its fleet.

During the mid- to late 1960s, Howard and Sue bought the company. Howard often worked as equipment operator, mechanic, lowbed driver, or anything else that needed to be done, while Sue managed the finances. Howard, much like his father before him, undertook a conservative management approach toward the company. During the late 1960s and into the early 1970s, the company grew at a steady pace.

As a result of the company's early experience working for underground sewer contractors, Northwest began an underground utilities division. This division dug trenches for power and telephone lines by the foot, then backfilled and compacted the trenches. Howard did all the estimating and ran most of the jobs. He is now acting CEO while his son Robert has taken over the daily management duties. Sue has stepped aside from the financial end.

Howard and Sue owned and operated, along with their son Michael, Northridge Equipment Rental in five locations in California, which they sold in 2005. The Groffs have also developed, owned, and managed office and industrial buildings throughout the San Fernando Valley.

For more than 30 years, the Groffs owned their own auto racing teams with their sons as drivers, which included racing in the Indy 500 for several years. Howard and Sue also are major supporters of our military and veterans and have been a major sponsor of my U.S. Rep. Elton Gallegly and Friends Operation Toy Drop at Naval Base Ventura County. In addition to voting in every election, they also actively support candidates who share their fiscal conservative convictions.

In addition to their sons Michael and Robert, Howard and Sue have a daughter, Debra, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to my friends Howard and Susan Groff for proving that conservative growth can build successful businesses and for proving their love for America by their generosity to our military men and women and by